

Agency 13 - Department Of Education

Statutory Authority:

Nebraska Constitution, Articles VII, Sec. 2, 3, and 4. Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Chapter 79 (primarily) for State programs. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Chapter 84 (US Department of Education), Chapter 10 (US Department of Agriculture), Chapter 93 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), Chapter 96 (Social Security Administration), and other Chapters for several other Federal programs.

The Nebraska Department of Education budget in detail can be accessed at www.nde.state.ne.us.

Vision Statement:

Partnering for the best education for all . . . for life.

The well being of Nebraska is best served by providing a quality education for all students. Through the policy and program leadership of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education, we must enable all Nebraska schools to demonstrate: Rigorous curriculum guided by standards and expectations for all student learning; Accountability for what is taught and what students learn; Safe, orderly, and drug free environments for learning; and Competent and caring educators in every classroom.

Mission Statement:

Mission: To Lead and Support the Preparation of All Nebraskans for Learning, Earning, and Living. Also see 79-701 for the mission of the State of Nebraska through its public schools system.

Principles: Honesty, Integrity, Trust, Quality Programs and Services; Visionary and Participatory Leadership; Positive Can-Do Attitude; Accountability for Results, Respect for Individuals and Individual Differences; Equity of Opportunities and Outcomes; Excellence Through Continuous Improvement, Well Qualified, Competent, Staff.

Goals:

The goals (adopted August 9, 2002) of the State Board of Education are:

1. Continue the implementation of the Nebraska standards, assessment and reporting system and integrate provisions of No Child Left Behind (federal) into the Nebraska's Comprehensive Plan for School Improvement;
2. Define and create a statement on essential education;
3. Develop a comprehensive policy establishing safe, healthy, academic and disciplined school environments and improve and evaluate school safety efforts including the role of the Department in assisting schools;
4. Develop and implement strategies to address teacher recruitment, retention, preparation, and certification;
5. Continue to improve communication and build relationships with policy partners at the local, state, and federal levels, including working with the legislature to have input into decisions that establish policy and decisions that impact quality education statewide;
6. Improve teaching and learning by promoting and supporting appropriate uses of technology;
7. Coordinate with policy partners on early childhood programs; and
8. Continue support of the P-16 initiative.

The Commissioner's goals for the Department are identified in Program 025 Subprogram 12.

Financial Data:

| | Actual FY02 | Approp FY03 | Request FY04 | Recom FY04 | Request FY05 | Recom FY05 |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| General Fund | 811,364,943 | 829,442,828 | 838,137,589 | 746,608,751 | 846,837,697 | 746,830,065 |
| Cash Fund | 11,058,103 | 21,979,369 | 11,216,138 | 5,546,543 | 10,476,476 | 3,613,061 |
| Federal Fund | 208,369,024 | 242,000,721 | 230,939,133 | 241,678,213 | 232,639,238 | 242,156,890 |
| Revolving Fund | 422,262 | 531,508 | 589,523 | 546,411 | 593,401 | 558,645 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Agency | 1,031,214,332 | 1,093,954,426 | 1,080,882,383 | 994,379,918 | 1,090,546,812 | 993,158,661 |

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Program 025 - Education, Administration & Support

Program Objectives:

Program 025 is a body of activities in the Department that primarily address educational leadership, policy setting, technical assistance, and education related program administration. The activities include the State Board, the Commissioner's Office, and the school improvement activities of curriculum/instruction, accreditation, and staff development/instructional strategies. Also included are activities addressing early childhood (Children & Families), special populations, educational technology, teacher certification/adult education, school finance/organization, No Child Left Behind federal programs, and all agency support functions. Each activity has specific objectives, multiple performance measures, and a subprogram level budget with a comprehensive narrative.

Financial Data:

| | Actual FY02 | Approp FY03 | Request FY04 | Recom FY04 | Request FY05 | Recom FY05 |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | 804,346,819 | 821,889,313 | 830,453,005 | 739,729,699 | 839,021,191 | 739,890,909 |
| Cash Fund | 2,056,227 | 5,388,244 | 2,225,862 | 2,632,669 | 1,464,338 | 2,640,415 |
| Federal Fund | 187,678,590 | 217,754,133 | 206,099,926 | 218,034,211 | 207,187,182 | 218,160,058 |
| Revolving Fund | 422,262 | 531,508 | 589,523 | 546,411 | 593,401 | 558,645 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 994,503,898 | 1,045,563,198 | 1,039,368,316 | 960,942,990 | 1,048,266,112 | 961,250,027 |

Performance Measures:

The program's primary focus through the next budget period will be the continued implementation activities associated with K-12 education standards, school based student assessment, and accountability including the impact these activities will have on teacher preparation. This major initiative addresses statewide school improvement through major educational policy reform, policy implementation based in local control, and continued capacity building to support the reform.

Program resources are being reallocated to support this reform along with targeted budget adjustments. It is possible that amendments to the program budget will be necessary to reflect the continued planning beyond the budget submission date.

Each subprogram narrative contains goals, objectives, performance measures, and accomplishments. Subprogram budget narratives are submitted in hard copy.

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Program 161 - Excellence In Education

Program Objectives:

The Education Innovation Fund (EIF) provides funding to enhance public education. Of the State Lottery proceeds, 13.375% go into this fund. Previously, the fund supported four grant programs that benefited Nebraska public schools:

1. the Mentor Teacher Program (MTP),
2. the Competitive Incentive Grant (CIG) program,
3. the Quality Education Incentive Payment (QEIP) program, and
4. the Distance Education Network Completion (DENC) grant.

As a result of the bills passed during the 2002 special session of the legislature, the majority of the EIF proceeds will be diverted to the General Fund through June 30, 2005.

Financial Data:

| | Actual FY02 | Approp FY03 | Request FY04 | Recom FY04 | Request FY05 | Recom FY05 |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| General Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash Fund | 8,439,717 | 15,769,575 | 8,171,454 | 2,111,883 | 8,172,748 | 168,592 |
| Federal Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 8,439,717 | 15,769,575 | 8,171,454 | 2,111,883 | 8,172,748 | 168,592 |

Performance Measures:

The Mentor Teacher Program provides grants to school systems to support individuals entering the teaching profession. The Competitive Incentive Grant program funds school improvement planning and implementation of innovative programs and practices. The Quality Education Incentive Payment program provides funding to schools which meet "quality factors" and are calculated on a per-student formula. The program's objectives are:

1. continue to refine the operation of the fund;
2. provide technical assistance to applicants and grantees;
3. monitor grantee progress;
4. report progress to the Excellence in Education Council and the Governor; and
5. provide staff support to the Council.

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Program 351 - Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Program Objectives:

Vocational Rehabilitation is a comprehensive statewide employment program for Nebraskans who experience a significant physical, mental or cognitive disability. Program staff provides direct service in vocational evaluation, career planning, independent living and job placement, as well as purchasing job coaching, skill training, and other services from community providers. The mission of the program is accomplished through three major programs:

1. Employment - Improving the quantity and quality of employment outcomes for adults;
2. Transition - Promoting movement from school to appropriate post-school employment for students with disabilities age 14 to 21, and
3. Employment Warranty - Promoting employment retention and career advancement.

Financial Data:

| | Actual FY02 | Approp FY03 | Request FY04 | Recom FY04 | Request FY05 | Recom FY05 |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | 3,763,573 | 3,874,850 | 3,932,973 | 3,621,455 | 3,991,968 | 3,648,897 |
| Cash Fund | 436,620 | 657,758 | 675,000 | 658,896 | 690,000 | 659,064 |
| Federal Fund | 13,303,373 | 16,094,778 | 16,553,254 | 15,361,799 | 17,072,764 | 15,619,125 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 17,503,566 | 20,627,386 | 21,161,227 | 19,642,150 | 21,754,732 | 19,927,086 |

Performance Measures:

The major goal of Vocational Rehabilitation is to increase economic self-sufficiency through integrated competitive, self and business enterprise employment paying the full time minimum wage equivalent or better.

Key objectives include:

1. Are people becoming employed?
2. Do they receive a living wage?
3. Are persons satisfied with services?
4. Are we serving people who need our services?

Outcome measures for FY02 include:

1. Serve 8,000 individuals,
2. Obtain employment for 2,000 individuals,
3. Provide supported employment services for 1,100 persons,
4. Serve 2,900 students with disabilities who are transitioning from school to work and adult life.
5. Receive a 96% satisfaction rate on client satisfaction survey.

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Program 352 - Disability Determination Section

Program Objectives:

The Disability Determination Section, makes determinations on behalf of the Social Security Administration regarding the eligibility of Nebraska residents for disability benefits under the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs. Applications are forwarded from Social Security field offices in Nebraska to the DDS, which then obtains sufficient medical and vocational documentation to prepare, make, and record a decision on each applicant's eligibility for benefits.

The program's primary goal is to provide for each Nebraska resident a decision on eligibility (20,000 to 25,000 claims per year).

Financial Data:

| | Actual FY02 | Approp FY03 | Request FY04 | Recom FY04 | Request FY05 | Recom FY05 |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Federal Fund | 7,387,061 | 8,151,810 | 8,285,953 | 8,282,203 | 8,379,292 | 8,377,707 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 7,387,061 | 8,151,810 | 8,285,953 | 8,282,203 | 8,379,292 | 8,377,707 |

Performance Measures:

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Program 401 - Services For The Deaf & Hard Of Hearing

Program Objectives:

Through this program, the Department has established four regional/statewide programs to provide educational alternatives and options for serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. The programs build upon existing services, promote, the creating of new cooperative agreements among service providers, and extend and support outreach services in all areas of the State. The Department has entered into an agreement with the Iowa School for the Deaf to provide residential school services (educational and residential). In collaboration with other agencies, service providers and institutions of higher education, the Department's Office of Programs for Children with Sensory impairments provides training to assist educational sign language interpreters meet state standards.

Financial Data:

| | Actual FY02 | Approp FY03 | Request FY04 | Recom FY04 | Request FY05 | Recom FY05 |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | 1,747,441 | 2,184,597 | 2,227,706 | 1,733,397 | 2,270,553 | 1,735,487 |
| Cash Fund | 1,411 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Federal Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,748,852 | 2,187,597 | 2,230,706 | 1,736,397 | 2,273,553 | 1,738,487 |

Performance Measures:

Develop regional programs and cooperative relationships with school districts/approved cooperatives, regional educational service units and consortiums of schools to:

1. maximize resources in providing programs and services for children,
2. provide a network of support and services statewide,
3. reduce costs now in order to maintain future funding,
4. build a base of quality programs from which a magnet program(s) can evolve,
5. reinforce the belief that children who are deaf and hard of hearing benefit from education with hearing and deaf and hard of hearing peers, and
6. continue state leadership and support for residential programs and services where necessary.

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Program 402 - Cntr For Educ Of Blind/vis. Imp. Chldrn

Program Objectives:

In collaboration with school districts/approved cooperatives, the center provides educational and residential services for children who are blind or visually impaired and their families. The education services may be provided on campus or through the outreach program. Program services include academic programs, adaptive physical education, assistive technology, audiology, augmentative communication, Braille (reading and writing), Braille music, Braille transcription services, computer literacy, diagnostic assessment, daily living skills training, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility, outreach services, physical therapy, short term placements, social skills training, speech and language therapy, Summer enrichment programs, transitional living programs, and vocational training.

Financial Data:

| | Actual FY02 | Approp FY03 | Request FY04 | Recom FY04 | Request FY05 | Recom FY05 |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | 1,507,110 | 1,494,068 | 1,523,905 | 1,524,200 | 1,553,985 | 1,554,772 |
| Cash Fund | 29,502 | 64,000 | 41,000 | 41,000 | 41,000 | 41,000 |
| Federal Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,536,612 | 1,558,068 | 1,564,905 | 1,565,200 | 1,594,985 | 1,595,772 |

Performance Measures:

A short list of some of the program's goals/activities include: teaching children who are blind or partially sighted in a day school and residential environment; providing outreaching services to school districts and parents; providing individualized educational programming for children; providing residential programming; developing and providing educational and residential programming for children with visual impairments or blindness and who verify with additional disabilities including impairments classified as hearing, orthopedic, behavior, speech-language, cognitive, and other health related including autism; supporting the UNL Endorsement Program for teachers of the visually impaired; serving as a State instructional resource center for the visually impaired; coordinating efforts to update State verification standards for children with visual impairments or blindness; coordinating efforts to keep the certification standards for teachers of the visually impaired in line with expectations of the field, based on standards established by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

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Program 614 - Professional Practices Commission

Program Objectives:

The Professional Practices Commission is composed of twelve members of the education profession appointed by the Governor. The Commission is charged with advising the State Board of Education regarding rules and regulations for the standards of ethics and the competency for Nebraska public school educators, promoting understanding of and adherence to the standards, and providing an orderly method, by use of the hearing process, of resolving disputes arising over alleged failure of an educator to adhere to the standards. Disciplinary action includes admonishment, warning, reprimand, or recommendation to the State Board of Education for suspension or revocation of the educator's certificate.

Financial Data:

| | Actual FY02 | Approp FY03 | Request FY04 | Recom FY04 | Request FY05 | Recom FY05 |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| General Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash Fund | 94,626 | 96,792 | 99,822 | 99,095 | 105,390 | 100,990 |
| Federal Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 94,626 | 96,792 | 99,822 | 99,095 | 105,390 | 100,990 |

Performance Measures:

Hold hearings within six weeks of the filing of a petition by the Commissioner of Education. Send two or more Commissioners to the National Judicial College's Administrative Law Judge Training courses each year. Distribute pamphlets on the code of ethics and standards of practices to all teacher training institutions and schools who request them. Make presentations each year to lay and/or professional groups. Update computer hardware, software, and other communications equipment as needed to ensure that the Commission's ability to communicate with other educational entities and the public are compatible and current. Expand and develop positive relationships with the various agencies and professional groups in the field of education. Work with the Legislature to ensure that the Commission's revenues are sufficient to provide for the continuing viability of the Commission's statutory requirements.